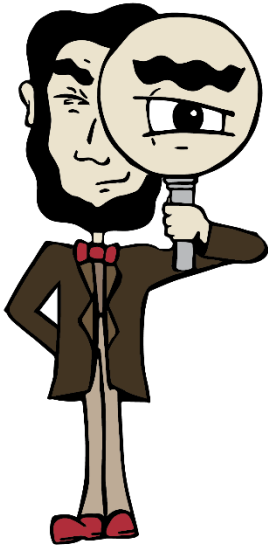


JUNIOR HISTORIANS



Route Cipher

What is Cryptography?

Cryptography is the art of writing and solving codes. It has been used for thousands of years to keep messages secret. During the Civil War, both sides sent important information about battles, supplies, and troop movements. Just as important was keeping that information a secret from the enemy. In order to hide important messages, soldiers relied on secret codes or ciphers. A **cipher** uses a letter, number, or symbol to replace an individual letter, combo of letters, or numbers. By using a code they agreed on, members of the same army could share important information without worrying about their enemy decoding the secret message. Today, computers use a form of cryptography called encryption to protect your valuable personal information in our digital world.

This cipher can be challenging, so let's decode a practice one first. Here's the encrypted message:

PITCR DLOEE ILSNN N

To decode this message, you need to know the route and width of the grid in which the message was originally encoded. In this instance the message was encrypted using a 4x4 grid and was written using a top-down route starting at the top of each column.

Begin by placing the encrypted message into the grid following the top down route.

P	R		
I	D		
T			
C			

Finish filling out the grid using the same route with the rest of the encoded message.

P	R	E	S
I	D	E	N
T	L	I	N
C	O	L	N

Once the grid is entirely filled out read the rows from left to right to discover the encrypted message.

Encrypted Message: **President Lincoln**

The Coded Message

PTIOT LORLS RHIFE ICAEN FSNOT WGAIC MERHM

DOMDE AEELE ISL!N NMNTL

Crack The Code

First construct an 7x8 grid, with eight squares across and seven squares down. Then fill out the grid with the coded message in a top-down route. Once the grid is full the decrypted message will be readable from left to right. Take the decoded message out of the grid and places spaces were necessary to fully decode the message!

Here is some help starting out:

P							
T							
I							
O							
T							

P _____

